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From: Garvin, Shawn
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Subject: Weekly Update

Administrator et al. – Here are three quick items:

1) NPR to Run Spring Valley Story - This past fall, Elizabeth Shogren, environment correspondent for NPR, contacted Region III and requested an interview for a story she was doing about the Spring Valley munitions site. We agreed to do a general interview on background, but never heard back from her. In the meantime, the Army of Corps of Engineers has informed us that her story is going to be broadcast this week. It is thought the story will focus on a family that desires to be relocated from their home that was built in the 1990s due to concerns with their proximity to the site. The Corps determined that all the appropriate safety measures were in place, and that relocation was not necessary. EPA supported the Corps decision.

The Spring Valley Site consists of approximately 660 acres in the northwest section of Washington, D.C. During the World War I era, the U.S. government conducted research and testing of chemical agents, equipment, and munitions in this area. Today it encompasses approximately 1,600 private properties, including embassies as well as American University and Wesley Seminary. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has the lead for the investigation and cleanup actions, and has entered in a formal partnering process with EPA and the DC Department of the Environment. Since the 1990's the cleanup has included the identification and removal of arsenic contaminated soil, a groundwater investigation, and the search for and removal of munitions.

2) WV Spill – Freedom Industries - Region III proposes to discontinue maintaining a daily on-site presence at the Freedom Industries facility in Charleston, West Virginia. The current operations at the site are routine and consist of pumping and controlling of water, along with maintenance of boom in the river, following plans prepared by the company that have been reviewed by the State and the EPA. West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) water and waste enforcement staff now are at the Freedom facility overseeing operations from 8am to 8pm daily. If conditions change, or if WVDEP needs federal on-site assistance, two Region III On Scene Coordinators (OSCs) who live in the Wheeling Area would be able respond within 3 hours. These OSCs are also available by phone and email to provide any guidance that WVDEP may request. EPA's START contractors can be redeployed as EPA requires. I am coordinating with HQ before we do anything, but hope to make a decision in the next day or two.

3) Buffalo Mtn/King Coal Highway – We have been working on comments to the final SEIS that the Corps has provided us to review as a cooperating agency. The Corps had given us until this Friday, March 7, to provide our comments before they released the SEIS. On Friday, I was contacted by the Commander of the Huntington District to extend the deadline until March 14, this is in anticipation of a meeting proposed to held on Monday, March 10. This follows conversations that Nancy and Ken have had with Corps HQ. We are currently working on making sure the appropriate representatives are participating from the Corps, EPA and Federal Highways.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you - Shawn